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OBITUARY NOTICES FOR ACADEMICIAN N. D. ZELINSKIY

Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR
 Moscow, Aug 1953

The Council of Ministers USSR announces with sorrow the death of Academician Nikolay Dmitriyevich Zelinskiy, the noted Soviet scientist and chemist and Hero of Socialist Labor, on 31 July 1953, at the age of 92. -- Council of Ministers USSR

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Academician Nikolay Dmitriyevich Zelinskiy, Hero of Socialist Labor, three-time winner of the Stalin Prize, and professor of Moscow State University, died on 31 July 1953 at the age of 92.

Science has lost, in the death of Zelinskiy, a noted organic chemist, a versatile scientist, and the teacher of several generations of chemists. He was the author of more than 250 original scientific works in different branches of chemistry, and his works on organic catalysis, synthesis, and other fields of organic chemistry always led world scientific research.

Zelinskiy made the well-known discoveries which led to the industrial production of aromatic hydrocarbons from petroleum. Greatly interested in petroleum, one of the most important raw material sources in our country, he published many works on the development of research methods on the composition of petroleum. He also published many works on research on the nature of native petroleum and its products. His research in the field of proteins gave a new approach to the solution of the problem of the structure of these important substances. He was the inventor of the first native gas mask.

His scientific activity began in 1884 and thereafter he gathered around him talented young researchers, founding one of the most competent scientific schools in the Soviet Union. His pupils are now working in all parts of the country in laboratories, institutes, plants, and the chairs of higher educational institutions.

Nikolay Dmitriyevich was a tireless fighter for peace, and the Soviet people know his appeals to scientists and to youth calling for the maintenance of peace.

The Soviet government highly valued the work of Academician Zelinskiy, awarding him the title of Hero of Socialist Labor and presenting him with four Orders of Lenin and two Orders of Labor Red Banner.

Throughout his entire life, Zelinskiy was a considerate teacher, combining high demands and principles in science with sympathy and attention to his pupils and associates. -- Academy of Sciences USSR; Ministry of Culture USSR; Ministry of Petroleum Industry; Department of Chemical Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR; Moscow State University imeni M. V. Lomonosov

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Nikolay Dmitriyevich Zelinskiy was born on 6 February 1861 in the town of Tiraspol', Moldavian SSR. He received his higher education at Odessa University. Among his teachers at Odessa University were the eminent scientists

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A. O. Kovalevskiy and I. I. Mechnikov. He was already well known by the time he was 28, and in 1893 he was invited to Moscow University as professor in the Chair of Organic and Analytical Chemistry. There he devoted his talents to the development of the vast and exceedingly important field of the chemistry of petroleum.

In 1915, when the Germans used poisonous substances on the battlefields of World War I, Zelinskiy turned his outstanding research to the use of activated charcoal as a universal means of counteracting them and invented the first gas mask. Thousands of Russian soldiers are indebted to him for their lives and health.

A characteristic feature of his activities was the continuous connection between his theoretical research and the fulfillment of the actual needs of our country. When the young Soviet republic badly needed aviation gasoline, N. D. Zelinskiy developed a new method of producing it from fuel oil and diesel oil in the central oblasts.

N. D. Zelinskiy was a scientist of rare scope and depth, carrying out original research in many fields of organic chemistry. He gave particular attention to research on the structure of proteins, a question having exceptional importance in the understanding of the basic laws of activity of the living organism.

N. D. Zelinskiy developed dozens of new methods of obtaining chemical substances.

He founded the greatest school of chemical research in the Soviet Union. Many of his students have been chosen to be Active Members of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

Nikolay Dmitriyevich carried out great social work at the same time as his scientific and educational work. He was a member and head of many scientific societies, president of the Society of Naturalists, and one of the organizers and heads of the All-Union Chemical Society imeni D. I. Mendeleyev, etc. -- A. Nesmeyanov, A. Topchiyev, B. Kazanskiy, Yu. Mamedaliyev, A. Terent'yev, N. Shuykin

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